

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 IO-10 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

( ISO ) W

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R 271616Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8370

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 396

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: STANDARDS HARMONIZATION: OPTIMUM METRIC FASTENER SYSTEM  
(OMFS)

REF: A. BONN 3081 B. BONN 2833

1. ALTHOUGH THE GERMANS WILL APPROACH THE USG ON A  
BILATERAL BASIS REGARDING GERMAN INDUSTRIES' CONCERN OVER  
THE ADOPTION IN THE US OF THE OPTIMUM METRIC FASTENER SYSTEM  
(OMFS) (SEE REFTEL A), THE EC COMMISSION IS VERY MUCH AWARE  
OF AND CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROBLEM. THE COMMISSION HAS MET  
WITH EUROPEAN INDUSTRY ON THE SUBJECT AND THE COMMISSION'S  
WASHINGTON MISSION HAS ALREADY SENT IN A REPORT ON OMFS.  
DURING AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION ON FEB. 26, FRIZ AND DE  
JONGE OF THE EC COMMISSION DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR INDUSTRY  
TOLD US THAT THEY HAVE ASKED EUROPEAN INDUSTRY TO PREPARE  
STATEMENTS ON THE EFFECTS OF OMFS ON TRADE AND ITS OTHER  
IMPLICATIONS SO THEY WOULD BEIN A POSITION TO FULLY  
ASSESS THE PROBLEM.

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2. DE JONGE EMPHASIZED THE DANGERS PRESENTED BY THE OMFS SYSTEM IN AS MUCH AS BOLTS BASED ON THOSE NORMS COULD BE USED, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH ISO STANDARD NUTS BUT WOULD NOT BE SECURE BECAUSE OF THE SHALLOWER DEPTH AND LIMITED POINTS OF CONTACT. FRIZ IMPLIED THAT BECAUSE OF SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS, GOVERNMENTS MIGHT BE FORCED TO TAKE ACTIONS TO PREVENT OMFS FASTENERS FROM BEING USED INTERCHANGEABLY WITH ISO FASTENERS. DE JOUNGE ALSO STRESSED THE ECONOMIC WASTEFULNESS OF SETTING UP A THIRD STANDARD SYSTEM FOR FASTENERS (IMPERIAL, ISO, IMFS) AND POINTED OUT THE PROBLEMS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IF THEY HAD TO PRODUCE TO MEET THREE SEPARATE SYSTEMS.

3. BOTH MEN REGRETTED THAT THE IFI (AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL FASTENER INSTITUTE) ESTABLISHED STANDARDS INDEPENDENT OF ISO, QUESTIONED THE MOTIVES BEHIND ITS ACTION, AND HOPED THAT THE ISSUE COULD BE RESOLVED WITHIN THE ISO. DE JONGE SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE HOW THINGS DEVELOP IN ISO BEFORE THE COMMISSION MAKES A FORMAL ISSUE OF OMFS. MYERSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MACHINE TOOL INDUSTRY, EQUIPMENT, STANDARDS, OMFS-OPTIMUM METRIC FASTENER SYSTEM  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** EIND, ETRD, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
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